

Lady Kathryn Cyrus

SI St Vincent & the Grenadines

In 1963, Kathryn said good-bye to her family in York, England, got on a Geest boat with her Vincentian husband and baby daughter, and arrived in her new home of St Vincent and the Grenadines. She had to adapt quickly and once settled in, she was invited to assist with the management of a nursery for underprivileged, single working mothers. Although it was heart-rending at the time, due to the prevalence of severely malnourished children, as a qualified nurse midwife she felt equipped to help. Fifty-six years later, Kathryn remains as managing Chairman and they continue to provide for children up to pre-school age. While raising her four young children Kathryn also assisted her husband at his surgery. The Girl Guide Association also enlisted her help once they found out that she was a Queen's Guide. She was happy to help with the testing of Guides for various badges, and was Guide Badge Secretary for several years. Twice during these early years she was invited to take the Brownies to camp locally and abroad.

In 1975, Kathryn and her husband opened the first private hospital with 13 beds, operating theatre, laboratory and X-ray facilities. As Senior Nursing Officer she was responsible for all staff.



As a founder member of the S.I. Club which started in 1987, Kathryn was nominated to represent the Club at the SIGBI conference in Glasgow in 1988. She returned to SVG full of enthusiasm and got involved with the construction of a much-needed public toilet facility in the capital Kingstown. As President, this was the Club's first major project, built with the approval of Government. CRC President - Sylvia Watts, opened the Comfort Station in December 1991.

SISVG were due to host the Caribbean Regional Conference in 1995, thus it was necessary to raise funds and promote Soroptimism. To this end, in 1994 the Club organised a highly successful 2-day fundraiser "The Bridal Spectacular" with a booth promoting Soroptimism. In 1995, under Kathryn's Presidency, the Club hosted the CRC Conference, the Council of which she was Vice President. During 1995, a Peace Corps worker approached the Club seeking assistance with 20 severely challenged children, who were being schooled in dreadful conditions. The Club was successful in finding a suitable property and with funding and upgrading, the "Helping Hands Centre" was opened on February 3, 2001. The "Helping Hands Centre" accommodates 25 students and Kathryn continues to supervise on behalf of Soroptimists and as a Board member.

In 2005, as President of the Caribbean Regional Council, she worked tirelessly to ensure the Region was kept informed of all developments with SIGBI regarding the re-construct of the Caribbean. In 2007, this was passed and the Clubs in the Caribbean were the first SIGBI area Network. SISVG hosted the first SI Caribbean Network Conference in July 2007.

In 1981, Kathryn and her husband hosted the first ever Caribbean Junior Squash Championships in St. Vincent, which continues to be held annually throughout the Caribbean.

Kathryn's husband Cyril was knighted in the Queen's New Year Honours of 2019 for services to medicine and to health services in St Vincent.